Foodgrains Production in Meghalaya

772. *SHRI* ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of foodgrains items in the State of Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the target set for the production of agriculture items in the State during this period; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to increase the existing area for producing the foodgrains items in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The targets and production of foodgrains in Meghalaya State in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are given in the table below:

(in '000 tonnes)

Year	Target	Production
1996-97	152	178
1997-98	179	187
1998-99	216	186

(c) The farmers are being encouraged to bring more area for cultivation under foodgrains, through the incentives provided under Integrated Crop Development Programme for rice and National Pulses Development Project in the State. Under the programme/ project, incentives are-provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation and use of improved farm implements. Research

is also being continuously undertaken to develop improved technologies so as to enhance the productivity and production of foodgrains.

Self reliance in Pulse Production

†773. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has been unsuccessful in achieving self-reliance in the field of production of pulses;

(b) if so, the production targeted to achieve self-reliance alongwith the effective steps being taken for it; and

(c) if not, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) It is a fact that the production of pulses is short of requirement of pulses in the country, because of the several constraints like their cultivation by small and marginal farmers on marginal lands under rainfed condition.

(b) The Planning Commission has fixed a production target of pulses for the IX Plan i.e. 2001-2002 at 16.5 million tonnes. The Government of India is making all efforts to increase the production of pulses and to make country self reliant in this Sector. For increasing the production of pulses a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Pulses Development Project (NPDP) is under implementation in 27 States/UTs. The scheme envisages financial assistance to the States for production and distribution of Certified Seeds, seed minikits, rhyzobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. Besides this field demonstration and farmers training are also being organized for the transfer of Improved Production & Protection Technology to the farmer's field for increasing the production of pulses.

(c) Question does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.